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Border Incidents Increase

Islamabad's concern about Soviet intentions is growing because of the recent sharp increase in cross-border attacks. (S)

According to [REDACTED] and press reports, more than 50 Pakistanis and Afghan refugees have been killed in attacks near Parachinar since 13 August. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a major insurgent supply base is located in Pakistan in the area of most of the attacks. [REDACTED] heavy ground fighting and extensive bombing on the Afghan side of the border in this area. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Moscow is trying to force Pakistan to abandon its support for the resistance and to recognize the Babrak government in Kabul. The immediate objective would be to influence the indirect UN-sponsored talks that resume today in Geneva. [REDACTED]

Islamabad has asked the US, other NATO countries, China, and Islamic countries to reaffirm their support for Pakistan through diplomatic channels and statements denouncing the attacks. Islamabad is also considering taking the issue of border violations to the UN Security Council. [REDACTED]

Comment: The current cross-border attacks are by far the most concentrated in time and area since fighting began in Afghanistan. They seem to be part of Soviet efforts to block insurgent supplies, and they also serve to reinforce the Soviet warning to Islamabad last month against continued Pakistani support for the insurgents. [REDACTED]

The strikes are unlikely to be deterred by foreign criticism. At the same time, Islamabad is unlikely to reduce its support for the insurgents, barring greatly increased Soviet military pressure. [REDACTED]

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